

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 PC-01

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 190717Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2080

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8698

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: MILITARY PARITY?

REF: NEW DELHI 12184 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR AND VISITING
DEPARTMENT OFFICER (NEA/INS) BROWN SEPTEMBER 16, MFA
DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI RIDICULED
IDEA, REPORTED IN NEW DELHI REFTEL, THAT PAKISTAN
CONTENDS THERE SHOULD BE PARITY BETWEEN ITS ARMED
FORCES AND INDIA'S. MEHDI REITERATED POSITION THAT
PAKS ONLY WISHED TO HAVE "CREDIBLE DEFENSE". HE SAID
IT WAS ABSURD FOR PAKISTAN TO THINK OF MILITARY PARITY
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WITH A COUNTRY THE SIZE OF INDIA.

2. MEHDI'S COMMENTS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE FREQUENTLY
MADE ON THIS ISSUE BY PAKISTANIS IN RESPONSIBLE
POSITION, NOTABLY INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO.
WE BELIEVE THEY ARE SINCERE REFLECTIONS OF A SOBER
APPRAISAL BY THE GOP OF PAKISTAN'S LIMITED STRENGTH,
ACTUAL AND PROSPECTIVE, VIS-A-VIS INDIA. THE PAKS DO
NOT ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT INDIA'S DOMINANT POSITION IN
THE SUBCONTINENT IMPLIES GOI HEGEMONY IN THE REGION,
BUT WHATEVER DREAMS THEY MAY HAVE HAD OF MILITARY
PARITY, HOWEVER DEFINED, ENDED IN 1971 AND IN OUR
VIEW SHOW NO SIGNS OF REVIVING.
BYROADE

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06 JUL 2006

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